

**Notice of Intent**  
**Office of the Governor**  
**Division of Administration**  
**Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity**

Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities 2.0 (GUMBO 2.0) (LAC 4:XXI.Chapter 18)

The Office of the Governor, Division of Administration, Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity has adopted LAC 4:XXI.Chapters 18 as authorized by R.S. 51:2370.21-2370.35, relative to the administration of the Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities 2.0 (GUMBO 2.0) grant program by the Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provides funding for robust investment in American infrastructure projects. IIJA established the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, which provides \$42.45 billion of funding to achieve high-speed broadband access throughout the United States. See Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, Division F, Title I, Section 60101, Public Law 117-58, 135 Stat. 429 (November 15, 2021) (codified at 47 U.S.C. § 1701 et seq.).

On June 6, 2025, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), as the agency responsible for administering the BEAD Program, published a policy notice (Policy Notice) for Eligible Entities (States, Territories, and the District of Columbia). The Policy Notice modifies and replaces certain requirements outlined in the BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Each Eligible Entity must comply with this Policy Notice to gain approval of its Final Proposal from the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

The State of Louisiana must now complete all new actions and redo the entirety of the bidding process within a 90-day timeframe from the release of the Policy Notice, with results due by September 4, 2025. This Rule allows ConnectLA to develop a policy related to the GUMBO 2.0 Benefit of the Bargain grant round in accordance with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice published on June 6, 2025. It also requires applicants to comply with the requirements outlined in ConnectLA's policy.

**Title 4**  
**ADMINISTRATION**  
**Part XXI. Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities**  
**Subpart B. Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities (GUMBO)**  
**Chapter 18. Benefit of the Bargain Round**

**§1801. Policy**

- A. GUMBO 2.0 Benefit of the Bargain round will be conducted in accordance with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, published on June 6, 2025. Pursuant to this policy notice, the office may issue restructuring notices to applicants.
- B. Applicants shall comply with the requirements outlined in the policy.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 51:2370.21-2370.33.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Office of the Governor, Division of Administration, Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity, LR 48:1504 (June 2022), amended LR 51:

#### **Family Impact Statement**

In compliance with Act 1183 of the 1999 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the impact of this proposed rule on the family has been considered. This proposed Rule has the potential to produce a positive impact on family stability, functioning, and earnings and a family's budget as described in R.S. 49:972 through broadband access offering enhanced employment opportunities, higher wages, business development, improved access to healthcare, and educational opportunities.

#### **Poverty Impact Statement**

The proposed Rule should produce a foreseeable, positive impact on the state's children, individuals, and families as defined by R.S. 49:973.B. In particular, the positive impact on factors influencing poverty will be evident through enhanced employment opportunities, higher wages, business development, improved access to healthcare, and educational opportunities.

#### **Small Business Analysis**

Pursuant to R.S. 49:978.5, methods for reduction of the impact on small business, as defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act, have been considered and cared for when creating this proposed Rule.

Should a small business not have the financial reporting capabilities and documents required within the Rule for the purposes of applying for the grant program, the office is granted the ability to accept other equivalent documents, at its discretion. Otherwise, this proposed Rule is not anticipated to have an adverse impact on small businesses within the state that apply for or are ultimately grant recipients of the program; therefore, a Small Business Economic Impact Statement has not been prepared.

#### **Provider Impact Statement**

It is likely that a private provider of broadband service provides such service to individuals with developmental disabilities. The proposed Rule should not have any known or foreseeable impact on providers as defined by HCR 170 of 2014 Regular Legislative Session, as the proposed Rule implements a grant program that will fund, through federal appropriations at a minimum of 80 percent of total costs, broadband infrastructure projects in previously unserved areas of the state. In particular, there should be no known or foreseeable effect on:

1. the effect on the staffing level requirements or qualifications required to provide the same level of service;
2. the total direct and indirect effect on the cost to the providers to provide the same level of service; or
3. the overall effect on the ability of the provider to provide the same level of service.

## **Public Comments**

Interested persons may submit written comments to Veneeth Iyengar, Executive Director, Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity, P.O. Box 94095, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095. Interested persons may also submit written comments by email to [connect@la.gov](mailto:connect@la.gov). The deadline for receipt of all written comments is on September 10, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. Mr. Iyengar is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this proposed Rule.

For additional information, please reference the following sources:

To view the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, please visit <https://www.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/bead-restructuring-policy-notice.pdf>.

To view the Governor Jeff Landry's Executive Order, please visit: <https://gov.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/newsroom/category/11>.

For more detail on ConnectLA's Benefit of the Bargain Round, please visit: <https://connect.la.gov/>.

Veneeth Iyengar

Executive Director

## **FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

### **SUMMARY**

(Use complete sentences)

In accordance with Section 961 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, there is hereby submitted a fiscal and economic impact statement on the rule proposed for adoption, repeal or amendment. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS SUMMARIZE ATTACHED WORKSHEETS, I THROUGH IV AND WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE LOUISIANA REGISTER WITH THE PROPOSED AGENCY RULE.

### **I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)**

The proposed rule is not anticipated to impose any implementation costs to state or local governmental units. Its purpose is to grant our office the ability to develop a policy related to the GUMBO 2.0 Benefit of the Bargain round in accordance with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Restructuring Policy Notice published on June 6, 2025; however, it does not allocate additional funding.

### **II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)**

The proposed rule is not anticipated to result in any additional revenue collections of state or local governmental units. Its purpose is to grant our office the ability to develop a policy related to the GUMBO 2.0 Benefit of the Bargain round in accordance with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Restructuring Policy Notice published on June 6, 2025; however, it does not allocate additional funding.

### **III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS, SMALL BUSINESSES, OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)**

The proposed rule is not anticipated to result in any costs and/or economic benefits to directly affected persons, small businesses, or non-governmental groups. Its purpose is to grant our office the ability to develop a policy related to the GUMBO 2.0 Benefit of the

Bargain round in accordance with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Restructuring Policy Notice published on June 6, 2025; however, it does not allocate additional funding.

#### IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

The proposed rule is not anticipated to result in any effect on competition and employment. Its purpose is to grant our office the ability to develop a policy related to the GUMBO 2.0 Benefit of the Bargain round in accordance with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Restructuring Policy Notice published on June 6, 2025; however, it does not allocate additional funding.